

Message Text

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R.KENNETH TOWERY, STATE:EUR/SOV:GHUMPHREY, USIA:I/SO:ESHERMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

FOLLOWING USIA CIRCULAR SENT TO ALL USIS PRINCIPAL POSTS AND
FORT BRAGG

FT. BRAGG, JFK CENTER FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

ATTN: GEBUHR

SUBJECT - V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY

INFOGUIDE 75-5

WITH APPROACHING 30TH ANNIVERSARY END OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE
(MAY 9) THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
STRESSING IN THEIR PROPAGANDA SOVIET ROLE IN VICTORY WHILE
AT SAME TIME BELITTLING OR IGNORING U.S. AND ALLIED
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CONTRIBUTIONS. HOWEVER, U.S. AND ALLIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN NUMBER OF COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS IN U.S.S.R.,
EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND ELSEWHERE. OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE
WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION SUCH COMMEMORATIONS IS TO ENSURE

RECOGNITION OF U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN WAR, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR
DETENTE INTERESTS WELL AS THOSE OF SOVIETS, TO AVOID OFFENSE
TO FRG AND BE CONSISTENT WITH ATTITUDES OF OTHER COUNTRIES
INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY OUR ALLIES.

TREATMENT

POINTS OF EMPHASIS IN OUR MEDIA OUTPUT AND IN CONVERSATIONS BY
FIELD OFFICERS MAY INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

--WE SHOULD IN NO WAY DENY MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOVIET
ARMED FORCES AND COURAGE AND SUFFERING OF PEOPLE OF U.S.S.R.,
NOR SHOULD WE ATTEMPT MINIMIZE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY SOVIET
UNION TO ALLIED VICTORY.

--THIS HAVING BEEN SAID, EMPHASIZE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. TO SOVIET UNION UNDER LEND-LEASE
PROGRAM: 2,500 SHIPS DELIVERED LEND-LEASE CARGO WORTH DOLS 11
BILLION FROM JUNE 1941 TO SEPTEMBER 1945 (77 SHIPS AND THOUSANDS
OF AMERICAN LIVES WERE LOST); OVER 40,000 AIRCRAFT, TANKS AND
ASSORTED WEAPONS WERE SUPPLIED; IN ADDITION SOME 2,000
LOCOMOTIVES, 11,000 FREIGHT CARS, 364,000 TRUCKS, 47,000 JEEPS
PLUS MILLIONS OF TONS OF FUEL, FOOD, EXPLOSIVES, ETC., WERE
INCLUDED IN LEND-LEASE PROGRAM.

-- POINT OUT THAT SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE AND
THAT WESTERN ALLIES FOUGHT LONG AND HARD BATTLES WHICH
CONTRIBUTED DECISIVELY TO FINAL VICTORY.

--INCLUDE REFERENCE TO FACT THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTED TO
LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA (DESPITE RECENT CZECH PROPAGANDA
OUTPUT TO THE CONTRARY). STRESS ALSO THAT MAINLY YUGOSLAVIA WAS
LIBERATED BY YUGOSLAVS THEMSELVES AND POINT OUT THAT MARSHAL
TITO'S PARTISAN FORCES RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL SUPPORT
FROM WESTERN MEMBERS OF ALLIANCE WELL BEFORE SOVIETS EXTENDED
SIMILAR HELP. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE CAN CITE OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV
IRRITATION WITH SOVIETS' CLAIM OF ORGANIZING AND LEADING LIBERATION
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OF YUGOSLAVIA. (FYI: MOSCOW ATTEMPTED TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT
DURING VISIT TO U.S.S.R. OF YUGOSLAV PREMIER BIJEDIC, BUT
YUGOSLAVIA'S DISSATISFACTION CONTINUES RECEIVE WIDE PLAY IN THEIR
MEDIA).

--THE SOVIETS ONLY ENTERED WAR WITH JAPA
AT LAST MOMENT, A
POINT THEY TEND TO GLOSS OVER OR IGNORE.

--STRESS COOPERATIVE ROLE OF ALL WAR-TIME ALLIES, AND POINT OUT
THAT SIMILAR EAST-WEST COOPERATION IN OTHER SPHERES IS NEEDED
TODAY IF DETENTE IS TO BE A REALITY.

--DEPLORE SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE ALLIED EFFORTS
IN WAR AS NOT CONTRIBUTING TO DETENTE AN CORRECT ANY DISTORTIONS
THEY ATTEMPT MAKE.

--IN KEEPING WITH U.S. SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND DTENTE, MENTION
CAN BE MADE OF VARIOUS AMERICAN DELEGATIONS ATTENDING SOVIET
COMMEMORATIONS OF V-E DAY: THE OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION
LED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR W. AVERELL HARRIMAN; A DELEGATION OF
AMERICAN VETERANS HEADED BY SAMUEL FRANKEL, REAR ADMIRAL, USN
(RET.) WHO COMMANDED U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES AT MURMANSK AND
ARKHANGEL'SSK; AND A VISIT BY U.S. NAVAL VESSELS TO LENINGRAD
UNDER THE COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL LANGILLE (SOVIET SHIPS WILL
VISIT BOSTON.)
KISSINGER

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